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ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS ANNOUNCES FALL RIVER CHOSEN TO RECEIVE URBANRIVER VISIONS IMPLEMENTATION GRANT

Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA) Secretary Robert W. Gollidge, Jr. announced today the City of Fall River will receive an UrbanRiver Visions Implementation grant for \$57,000 to complete final design plans for expanding and improving Britland Park, which is located along the Quequechan River.

Britland Park serves as a critical link to the downtown from surrounding neighborhoods. The park is envisioned as the anchor for a greenway along the Quequechan. This project will design new trails and restore valuable habitat in the two-acre "wild area" just east of the park. To restore habitat, invasive species will be removed and native wetland species will be planted along the river's edge. On the upland ledge, native wildflowers and shrubs will be planted. School and community groups will participate in the plantings. Enhanced amenities and improved public access are major goals of this project.

"UrbanRiver Visions Implementation grants are helping communities turn their vision for their riverfronts into reality," said EOEA Secretary Robert Gollidge. "By reconnecting downtowns with their rivers and restoring the natural environment, these municipalities are able to provide improved habitat, recreational and revitalized urban centers."

EOEA launched the Urban River Visions Initiative in 2002 by convening a collaborative planning process with the aim of developing a vision and action plan for urban riverfronts in cities and towns in Massachusetts. The communities that were chosen represent a mix of size and geographic locations: Athol, Chicopee, Fall River, and Worcester. Under this initiative, people in each of the municipalities created a unique plan based on their community's needs, including housing, natural resource conservation, recreation, and commercial development. This round of funding is for the implementation of the recommendations from these municipalities' plans.

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